

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the presented claims (above) and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated December 21, 2006, the Examiner (1) found allowable subject matter relative to claims 2-12, only objecting to claims 2-6 for being dependent on a rejected base claim; and (2) rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,642,467 to Farrington.

Concerning item (1) above, appreciation for the finding of allowable subject matter relative to the claims is respectfully expressed. In addition, concerning item (2), it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 has been canceled hereby without prejudice, and moreover that present claims 1 and 3-12 are each directed to that which has been acknowledged as allowable subject matter.

## **Conclusion**

Except as indicated herein, the claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or a continuation application.

It is clear from all of the foregoing that independent claims 1, 7, and 11-12 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 3-6 depend from and further limit independent claim 1, and therefore are allowable as well. Dependent claims 8-10 depend from and further limit independent claim 7, and therefore are allowable as well. The amendments herein are fully supported by the original specification and drawings

as discussed herein; therefore, no new matter is introduced. An early formal notice of allowance of claims 1 and 3-12 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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